ILLEGAL FARMING OF POPPY FLOWERS

3304. SHRIMATI URMILABEN PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to prevent illegal farming of poppy flowers and restrict tobacco farming; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected.

3305. [Transferred to the 23rd December, 1993).

PRODUCTION OF COTTON DURING 1993-94

3306. SHRI AHMED MOHAMMED BHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether cotton production during 1993-94 season which commenced from September has increased in comparison to the last year;

(b) the total production during 1992-93 and to what extent it is more in compariso to the previous year ;

(c) what are the States where production of cotton has improved ;

(d) whether sufficient measures were taken by Government to ensure that cotton growers do not suffer due to increase of cotton production; and

(e) if so, what action is proposed to be taken to meet the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The production of cotton during 1992-93 was 115.83 lakh bales i.e. higher by 19.2 per cent over 97.14 lakh bales of the previous year i.e. 1991-92.

(c) The major cotton growing States where its production increased during 1992-93 are Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.

(d) and (e) Government provides price & market support to ensure that the cotton growers do not suffer due to increase in cotton production. The Government fixes the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of cotton every year. The cotton Corporation of India (CCI) which is the nodal agency designated for undertaking price support operations, makes purchases of cotton, whenever the cotton price tend to decline. Release of quota for export from time to time and the market intervention at commercial rates, are also resorted to, to ensure that the prices of cotton do not fall below the MSP level due to increase of cotton production.

LOSS SUFFERED BY N.D.D.B.

3307. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that the NDDB has suffered a massive loss on account of its market intervention operations for 1992-93;

(b) Whether this loss in actual terms is compounded if the imported oil made available to NDDB at concessional rates is also taken into account; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ensure that NDDB becomes a financially viable operation|organisation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND